

Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards

P.O. Box 387, Leicester, MA 01524 • 508-754-3068 • MFPABL@hotmail.com

FYI

Annual Meeting - Saturday, October 22, 2005

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA (508-791-1600)

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. - Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The Massachusetts Federation of Planning & Appeals Boards will hold its annual meeting on October 22, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA. This is the Federation's 90th year, so come and help us start our next decade of service to the Planning and Zoning Boards of Massachusetts. The Early Bird Help Desk, staffed by Federation Vice Presidents, Milton Gilbert and Michael Marciniak, will be available 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., near the registration table. The meeting will begin at 9:00 with a short business meeting for the presentation of brief annual reports, and the election of officers and directors, and will end at 3:30-4:00 p.m., at the conclusion of the final workshops. All times of course, are approximate. Cost is \$30 for attendees from member boards, and \$35 for attendees from non-member boards. We take personal checks, town checks, or payment at the door, however, we CANNOT take credit cards. Please try to make your registration by Friday, the 21st of October. We will do our best, as always, to accommodate you.

The first featured speaker of the morning session will be Craig Macdonnell of the Trust for Public Land. His presentation will be on the Trust's recent work in Central Massachusetts, with focus on the three very different communities of Grafton, Leicester, and Worcester, where the Trust has realized some gleaming successes, including securing some major grants for the completion of three very important land preservation projects. He will discuss how communities are chosen, how grants are secured, and how the projects are arranged and implemented utilizing community support and participation, through to town hall floor, where applicable. Following this, there will be a presentation by Jeanne Van Orman of Planning Places in Arlington, of her new program, CHARISMA (CHARacter IS MAssachusetts), a new, excellent visualization program that will help a municipality identify how Smart Growth initiatives will fit into the local setting - how they may best be realized - utilized - achieved. Jeanne will run and explain this program during the meeting. There will be time for Q&A for both Van Orman and Macdonnell. After a short break, Attorney Carol Rolf will present Recent Court Decisions in Planning and Zoning. After Carol has concluded, the Trustees of the Charles E. Downe Foundation (represented by Planning Consultant Carol Thomas) will present, together with the President and Executive Director the Federation, the Charles E. Downe Award to Dwight Merriam, an outstanding member of the Massachusetts Planning and Zoning community. And to end the morning session, Donald Schmidt will present and discuss the supporting regulations he has written which provide the underpinning for Chapter 40R, the new Smart Growth legislation. At the end of Donald's presentation, we will break for a buffet lunch. Buffet lunch will include choice of chicken or fish, rolls, vegetables, salads, and dessert.

After lunch, the first tier of workshops will begin. Carol Rolf will present her new manual on Special Permits. This represents the first publication on this subject offered since the early 1970s. She will take you through the material and case law, and take Q&A throughout. This manual has been completely rewritten throughout, and brought up-to-date with case law. William Scanlan of the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission will present a workshop on running your board meeting and public hearings effectively. If you are having trouble keeping order, having your meeting/public hearing move effectively, or having trouble keeping things organized, attend this workshop. A number of our members have asked for this workshop. Bill will help you get things sorted out. Laila Michaud, the Director of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, will give a workshop on Brownfields and their place in Smart Growth. Even some of the smallest of our communities have Brownfields sites which may, if handled with care and patience, reward a community under Smart Growth development. Montachusett has had successes in this area. Let Laila demonstrate them for you.

The second tier of workshops will see Carol Rolf again, this time walking you through Section Six of 40A, Nonconformities. This section of the law is one that continually troubles board members. It is perhaps the most complicated section of 40A. Let Carol help you sort it out! William Scanlan of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Linda Finan, Executive Director of the Federation, will weigh in with a workshop on writing defensible decision. This will be easier, of course, if you have held a "successful" meeting in the first place. Ms. Finan has served for 28 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals in Leicester, and has some insights, as well as some war stories, to tell. Come and work your way through a decision that is the best that you can do.

NAME

TOWN / BOARD

TELEPHONE NUMBER

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Please make arrangements for payment by October 21st

mail registration and checks to:

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P.O. Box 387, Leicester, MA 01524

For questions or further information,
please call Linda Finan, Executive Director, at 508-754-3068, or email at MFPABL@hotmail.com

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